

Late testimony

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**From:** Edward Gomes [mailto:egomes01@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2008 3:08 PM

**To:** testimony; Sen. Roz Baker; Sen. Shan Tsutsui; Sen. Jill Tokuda; Sen. J. Kalani English

**Subject:** Testimony in Support of to SCR138 SD1 (Financial and Management Audit of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs)

The Senate

Twenty-Fourth Legislature

Regular Session of 2008

State of Hawai'i

March 26, 2008

To the Honorable Senate Committees:

Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Chair Jill N. Tokuda and Vice Chair J. Kalani English

Ways and Means

Chair Rosalyn H. Baker and Vice Chair Shan S. Tsutsui

Subject: Testimony in Support of to SCR138 SD1 (Financial and Management Audit of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs)

The Senate deserves applause for introducing SCR138 SD1 requesting a financial and management audit of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The requested audit is about trust accountability and transparency owed to the native beneficiaries and the community-at-large. Testimony that was presented to the committee hearings on the Ceded land bill were very disconcerting to listen to, regarding mismanagement of beneficiary funds. While these accusations may or may not be based on fiduciary misconduct, I urge the senate of this bill to either dispel the mismanagement allegations or find the real truth to what was provided in testimony. For OHA to claim that an audit is not due until next year, that the last audit did not provide any irregularities, and that there was a small portion of the beneficiaries and "activists" causing undue pressure, bears a resemblance to the Bishop Estate/Kamehameha Schools Investigation a few years ago. After listening to the former trustees relate that there was nothing wrong with KSBE and finally ending in the ouster of the trustees and felony convictions, leads one to assume that we are traveling down this same path.

OHA Trustees and Administration have a fiduciary responsibility and obligation to act exclusively in the interest of native beneficiaries. The request of a financial and management audit of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs will provide native beneficiaries

with an open and honest "report card," pertaining to the trust derived from the public land trust. Therefore, I submit my testimony in support of SCR138 SD1.

Sincerely,

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